MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COFFEE BOARD

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): Madam, I move the following Motion:-

> "That in pursuance of Clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Coffee Act, 1942 (vii of 1942), read with sub-rule (1) of rule 4 of the Coffee Rules, 1955, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among the Members of the House to be a Member of the Coffee Board to fill up the vacancy which will be arising therein *w.e.f.* April, 13, 2003 consequent on the expiry of the term of Shri H. K. Javare Gowda in the Coffee Board."

The question was put and the motion was adopted

MATTER RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

Need for a statement from the Prime Minister on the latest situation on Iraq

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Madam, with your permission, I would like to draw the attention of the House to an important matter. Yesterday, we drew the attention of the Government to the statement of the Prime Minister on the situation in Iraq. Since the Budget session of the Parliament began, the Prime Minister did not make any statement on the situation developing in Iraq, except making some cursory references while replying to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. On the whole issue, the country has not learnt anything from the Prime Minister through the floor of the House. To my mind, Madam, this is an unusual situation. We do appreciate that the Prime Minister invites the leaders of the opposition parties and shares his concern with them. We fully appreciate it. At the same time, we do expect that the Prime Minister would take this House and the other House into confidence and explain the position of the Government, express the concern of one hundred crores of people whom he is representing because this is a matter on which each and every one of us is concerned, not only because a large number of people are staying there but also because of the very fact that just a